

Message Text

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ORIGIN PM-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 DODE-00 NSC-05 SS-15
PA-01 ACDA-12 ICA-11 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 /085 R

DRAFTED BY PM/ISP - RADAVIS:LLB
APPROVED BY PM/ISP - JHHAWES
OSD/ISA - HGAFFNEY
EUR - JGOODBY
NSC - CSTEBBINS

-----022371 050126Z /66

P 042211Z MAY 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USMISSION USNATO PRIORITY
ALL NATO CAPITALS
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION GENEVA
USDEL MBFR VIENNA
USNMR SHAPE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 114238

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MNUC, NATO, NPG

SUBJECT: PRESS STORY ON INCREASE BLAST BOMB

1. WASHINGTON POST OF SUNDAY APRIL 30 CARRIED A STORY
ON US DEVELOPMENT ON AN "INCREASED BLAST" OR REDUCED
RESIDUAL RADIATION (RRR) WEAPON. IN ANTICIPATION OF
POSSIBLE NATO INTEREST IN THIS DEVELOPMENT, THE
FOLLOWING IS PROVIDED FOR YOUR INFORMATION.

2. TESTS HAVE BEEN CONDUCTED FOR PURPOSE OF DEMONSTRATING
THE BASIC CONCEPT OF THIS WEAPON. NO FEASIBILITY
STUDIES HAVE BEEN INITIATED FOR SPECIFIC WEAPONS SYSTEMS
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AND AT PRESENT THERE ARE NO PLANS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT
OR PRODUCTION OF ANY SPECIFIC RRR WEAPON.

3. ALLIES HAVE BEEN TOLD ABOUT THIS DEVELOPMENT AT
LEAST 3 TIMES SINCE JANUARY 1976:

-- SECDEF RUMSFELD TO NPG MINISTERS IN JANUARY 1976,

IN PAPER ENTITLED IMPROVING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF NATOS
THEATER NUCLEAR FORCES.

-- BRIEFING BY THE ASSISTANT TO THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
FOR ATOMIC ENERGY, DONALD COTTER, TO NPG PERMREPS IN
SEPTEMBER 1976.

-- DISCUSSION OF REPORT BY THE NPG'S MILITARY
IMPLICATIONS TEAM, OCTOBER 1976, VOL. 1 P. 11, AND VOL.
2 P. 57.

4. IF ASKED BY PRESS OR IN PUBLIC ABOUT THE SUBJECT
PRESS STORY YOU MAY DRAW ON THE FOLLOWING PRESS
GUIDANCE:

Q: HAVE YOU CONSULTED WITH THE NATO ALLIES CONCERNING
THE "INCREASED BLAST BOMB" DISCUSSED IN SUNDAY'S
WASHINGTON POST?

A: THE "REDUCED RESIDUAL RADIATION" WEAPON MENTIONED IN
THE POST STORY IS IN A VERY EARLY CONCEPTUAL STAGE.
WE ARE NOT AT THE STAGE WHERE PRODUCTION AND DEPLOYMENT
DECISION NEED TO BE CONSIDERED. (IF PRESSED) WE
HAVE BRIEFLY OUTLINED SOME OF THE TECHNICAL CONCEPTS
OF THIS WEAPON TO SOME OF OUR NATO ALLIES.

5. IF ASKED BY ALLIED OFFICIALS YOU MAY INDICATED THAT
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THIS SUBJECT HAS BEEN DISCUSSED SEVERAL TIMES WITHIN
THE NPG OVER THE PAST 2 YEARS AND THAT WE CURRENTLY
HAVE NO PLANS TO DEVELOP OR PRODUCE SPECIFIC RRR
WEAPONS. CHRISTOPHER

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, NUCLEAR BOMBS, ADVANCED WEAPONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE114238
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: RADAVIS:LLB
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780191-0577
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780592/aaaadahy.tel
Line Count: 98
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 9fedcba3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN PM
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2789039
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESS STORY ON INCREASE BLAST BOMB
TAGS: MNUC, SOPN, NATO, NPG, WASHINGTON POST
To: USNATO NATO POSTS MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/9fedcba3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014